NTPC, with this objective of getting gas at the most competitive price, went for International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for sourcing of gas for its expansion projects at Kawas (1300 MW) and Gandhar (1300 MW) and placed Letter of Intent (LOI) on RIL, evaluated to be the lowest Techno-Commercially acceptable bidder, for supply of gas at US $ 2.34 / Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) for 17 years. Subsequently, RIL sought major changes in Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) in the form of Limitation of Liability and RIL did not sign GSPA. Therefore, NTPC filed a suit against M/s RIL in Bombay High Court on 20.12.2005 for specific performance of the contract. The matter is at present sub-judice. The expansion project is yet to come up.

The variable cost of power (at delivered price of gas of US $ 3.30 / MMBTU based on commodity price of US $ 2.34 / MMBTU) works out to be Rs.1.07/ kilo watt hour (Kwh). The variable cost of power (at delivered price of US$ 6.67/MMBTU considering price of gas as US $ 4.20/MMBTU (land fall price) as fixed by Govt. of India for KG D-6 gas) works out to be Rs.2.17/Kwh. The difference in variable cost of power works out to be Rs.1.10/kwh (Rs.2.17-Rs.1.07/kwh).

Conference of power ministers

2745. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has called on the States and UTs to expedite efforts to achieve goal of power for all;

(b) if so, the decisions taken during the conference of Ministers of Power and whether it has been decided to call such a meeting twice a year; and

(c) if so, what were the points discussed and to what extent measures have been taken to implement decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) A Conference of Power Ministers of States was held on 15th November, 2009 at New Delhi to discuss following issues:-

(i) Capacity Addition;

(ii) Open Access;

(iii) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana; and

(iv) Re-structured APDRP.

After detailed discussion, a Resolution was adopted at the end of the conference incorporating the steps to be taken to expedite progress in Capacity Addition and facilitate implementation of RGGVY, R-APDRP and Open Access.

Constitution of a media commission

†2746. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.